

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 DRC-01 /141 W

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R 182050Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5730

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALAN

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2426

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJ: POST JALAPA COMMENT

USCINCSO FOR POLAD, GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

1. THE GOES'S REFUSAL TO ATTEND THE JALAPA SUMMIT HAS PRODUCED ONLY FAVORABLE COMMENT FROM SIGNIFICANT LOCAL SECTORS AND FROM THE PRESS. MOST RECENTLY, THE SALVADORAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD BE ONE OF THE MORE PRO INTEGRATIONIST INSTITUTIONS HERE) OFFERED ITS VIEWS ON THE UNCONSUMATED SUMMIT IN ITS MOST RECENT BULLETIN. NOTING THAT THE RESOLUTION OF THE HONDURAS/SALVADOR CONFLICT IS OBVIOUSLY THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGE FACING CENTRAL AMERICA, THE CHAMBER CONTENDS THAT THE JALAPA MEETING WOULD HAVE CONCENTRATED INSTEAD ON ECONOMIC ISSUES OF INTEREST ONLY TO THE OTHER NATIONS AND ALLEGES THAT THE OTHER CA'S HAD AGREED BEFOREHAND TO ATTEMPT TO PRESSURE EL SALVADOR AGAINST ITS WILL TO SUBMIT ITS DIFFERENCE WITH HONDURAS TO AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL. THE CHAMBER HOLDS THAT THE OTHER COUNTRIES WANTED THE SALVADORANS TO "ACT LIKE GOOD LITTLE CHILDREN" BY ENDORSING THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPOSE A BANANA EXPORT TAX AND ESTABLISH A "PETRO-CHEMICAL MONOPOLY" IN COSTA RICA. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY WERE

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NOT WILLING TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE PROBLEMS EL SALVADOR FACES

SUCH AS THE CLOSURE OF THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY THROUGH HONDURAS TO SALVADORAN GOOS. THE CHAMBER CONCLUDES WITH THE CUSTOMARY RHETORIC ABOUT ITS COMMITMENT TO CENTRAL AMERICANISM, ASSERTS THAT THE COUNTRY KNOWS HOW TO "OVERCOME THESE TEMPORARY ADVERSITIES" AND EXPRESSES ITS CONFIDENCE IN THE HISTORIC DESTINY OF REGIONAL UNITY.

2. LOCAL PRESS ALSO CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH  
MANAGER OF SALVADORAN  
INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION VICTOR MANUEL CUELLAR ORTIZ (ONE-TIME  
SUB-SEC OF ECONOMY) ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE JALAPA  
POSTPONEMENT. CUELLAR NOTES THAT EL SALVADOR IS BEING PICTURED AS  
THE VILLAIN OF THE PIECE IN HONDURAN, COSTA RICAN AND  
NICARAGUAN PRESS AND CITES THE NEED FOR COUNTER CAMPAIGN TO SHOW  
THAT JALAPA "WAS NEITHER THE BEGINNING NOR THE END OF CACM9"  
TAKING A LINE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE CHAMBER, CUELLAR CLAIMS  
JALAPA WAS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE HONDURAN THESIS THAT BORDER  
DELINEATION IS A PRE-REQUISITE TO ALL OTHER RACM NEGOTIATIONS  
AND THAT THE BORDER ISSUE WAS THE CAUSE OF THE 1969 CONFLICT.  
HE THEN QUESTIONS HOW EL SALVADOR'S INTEREST WOULD BE SERVED BY  
SUPPORTING THE BANANA  
EXPORT TAX 'WHEN IT IS AN IMPORTER) OR BY  
ENDORING THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF A PETROLEUM REFINERY FOR CENTRAL  
AMERICA IN COSTA RICA (AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS OWN PETROLEUM  
INDUSTRY). CUELLAR CONCLUDES THAT EL SALVADOR WAS CORRECT IN NOT  
ATTENDING THE SUMMIT ("IT IS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY") BUT  
THAT ITS REFUSAL TO DO SO DOES NOT MEAN IT IS ANTI-CACM.

3. THESE VIEWS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE  
GENERAL TONE OF COMMENTS WE HAVE HEARD LOCALLY ABOUT THE JULAPA  
POSTPONEMENT I.E., THE OTHER CA'S (ESPECIALLY COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA  
AND HONDURAS) WERE PLANNING TO GANG UP ON US AND IT WAS BEST THAT  
WE NOT ATTEND. IN KEEPING WITH THIS DEFENSIVE MOOD, THE CONSER-  
VATIVE DIARIO DE HOY EDITORIALIZED 10 DAYS AGO, "WE REPEAT THAT  
EL SALVADOR, FOR THE MOMENT, IN VIEW OF THE SEPARATIONIST AND  
ALMOST TRIBAL GOVTS OF THE REST OF CENTRAL AMERICA MUST  
SEE ITSELF AS COMPLETELY ALONE."

4. COMMENT: IN OUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH FON MIN BORGONOVO  
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WE HAVE TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM THAT IT WOULD NOT SERVE EL  
SALVADOR'S INTERESTS TO PERMIT ITSELF TO BECOME ISOLATED IN  
CENTRAL AMERICA OR TO IGNORE EXTERNAL OPINIONS REGARDING THE  
EL SALGADOR-HONDURAS DISPUTE.  
CAMPBELL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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